

SENATE BILL NO. 27

INTRODUCED BY C. STAPLETON

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REDUCING THE SHORTFALL IN GENERAL FUND REVENUE BY TRANSFERRING FUNDS FROM THE ACCOUNT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE STATE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND TO THE GENERAL FUND; PROVIDING THAT THE TRANSFERRED FUNDS ARE TO BE USED BY THE MONTANA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND TO BE CONSISTENT WITH THE PURPOSES OF THE EXISTING PROGRAM; AMENDING SECTIONS 53-19-306 AND 53-19-310, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 53-19-306, MCA, is amended to read:

"53-19-306. Program established -- purpose. (1) The committee shall establish and administer a program to provide specialized telecommunications equipment and services to persons with disabilities and to assist appropriate facilities in obtaining hearing screening equipment that determines if infants have a hearing impairment. The legislature may allocate funds to the Montana school for the deaf and blind to be used for the purposes established in subsection (2).

(2) The purpose of the program is to:

(a) furnish specialized telecommunications equipment to meet the needs of persons with disabilities;

(b) provide a telecommunications relay service system to connect persons with disabilities with all phases of public telecommunications service, including telecommunications service to emergency services and public safety agencies as defined in 10-4-101; and

(c) determine if infants are hearing-impaired as early as possible in order to reduce long-term costs in providing assistance."

Section 2. Section 53-19-310, MCA, is amended to read:

"53-19-310. Fund for telecommunications services for persons with disabilities. (1) There is an account for telecommunications services for persons with disabilities in the state special revenue fund in the state treasury. The account consists of:

- (a) all monetary contributions, gifts, and grants received by the committee as provided in 53-19-309;
- (b) all charges billed and collected pursuant to 53-19-311; and
- (c) all fees received pursuant to 53-19-307.

(2) ~~The~~ Unless allocated to the Montana school for the deaf and blind, the money in the account is allocated to the committee for purposes of implementing this part.

(3) All expenditures of the committee in administering this part must be paid from money deposited in the account."

NEW SECTION. Section 3. Fund transfer. There is transferred ~~\$125,000~~ \$56,995 from the account for telecommunications services for persons with disabilities in the state special revenue fund to the general fund to be used by the Montana school for the deaf and blind to be consistent with the purposes provided for in 53-19-310.

NEW SECTION. Section 4. Effective date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

- END -